

DRAFT

MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING
Montana Historical Society Auditorium
Monday, August 8, 2011

In attendance were Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members President Steve Lozar, Jim Murry, Crystal Shors, Jack Lepley, and Jim Utterback, and attending by teleconference were Robert Brown, Janene Caywood, Shirley Groff, Kent Kleinkopf, Sharon Lincoln, and Tom Nygard. Also in attendance were MHS Research Center Program Manager Molly Kruckenberg and MHS Archivist Rich Aarstad, who represented staff on the Director's Selection Committee as well as MHS Interim Director Mike Cooney and MHS Special Projects Manager Susan Near. There were no members of the public in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

President Steve Lozar called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Steve asked for a role call from the Board, and he asked all guests to introduce themselves. Steve observed there were no members of the public present.

It was requested that the Trustees meet in closed session to discuss the Director's position selection. Interim Director Cooney and Susan Near left the meeting.

The MHS Board of Trustees met in closed session until 1:40 p.m. when the Special Meeting was resumed. Interim Director Cooney and Susan Near returned to the meeting.

Jim Murry called for a vote to accept the recommendation of the MHS Director Interview Committee, and offer the position to Bruce Whittenberg of Billings. Jim Utterback seconded the motion.

Steve Lozar called for discussion. Janene Caywood asked if Bruce Whittenberg would continue in his consulting business if he accepted the MHS Director position. Jim Utterback responded that he understood that consulting was not taking up much of Whittenberg's time at present, and he would cease private consulting if hired at MHS.

There was discussion of considerations of employment to propose to Bruce Whittenberg when the position is offered to him. They would include: relinquishing private consulting interests, resigning from fundraising work related to the Parmly Billings Library capital campaign, and relocating to Helena.

Steve Lozar asked for public comment and heard none.

A call for the question was made by Jim Murry. All present voted in favor of the motion, Jim Court's written vote was read into the record, and the motion passed unanimously.

President Steve Lozar suspended the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 2:05 p.m.

Steve Lozar reported on his call to Bruce Whittenberg offering him the MHS Director position with the caveats the Board of Trustees outlined. Bruce accepted verbally, but before officially responding he asked that the Board send him a letter that outlined the offer with the conditions. A final answer from Bruce was expected the next morning - Tuesday, August 9.

A start date was discussed and the Board desired that the new Director begin no later than Tuesday, September 6-the day after Labor Day. Steve Lozar will draft an offer letter containing the conditions of employment and suggested start date which he will e-mail or FAX to Bruce by the end of the day.

Steve Lozar also reported to the group that he had made a call to the other MHS Director finalist, Ellen Crain, and informed her of the decision which she accepted gracefully.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.